

## Message Text

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21

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /036 W

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R 271723Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3992

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS DAKAR 1212

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, NI, SG

SUBJ: GABON ENDORSES SENEGALESE POSITION AGAINST ARAB  
PARTICIPATION IN BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

REF: DAKR 7093, DAKAR 6934, ACCRA 7364

1. GABONESE MINISTER OF CULTURE EMMANUEL MEFA NE COMPLETED  
SIX-DAY VISIT TO SENEGAL FEB. 26 DURING WHICH HE MET WITH  
PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND PRIME MINISTER DIOUF, AND HAD WORKING  
SESSION WITH SENEGALESE CULTURE MINISTER ALIOUNE SENE.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN IN SENE'S OFFICE, MEFA NE  
INDICATED THAT ONE PURPOSE OF VISIT HAD BEEN TO GRASP FIRST  
HAND SENEGAL'S DIFFERENCES WITH NIGERIA OVER BLACK ARTS  
FESTIVAL. ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA, MEFA NE SAID SENEGALESE  
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POSITION (AGAINST ARAB PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVAL

COLLOQUIUM) WAS LOGICAL SINCE SPIRIT OF LAGOS FESTIVAL IS AFFIRMATION OF BLACK MAN. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FESTIVAL MUST RESPOND TO ASPIRATIONS OF BLACK AFRICA AND COULD NOT BE PAN-AFRICAN SYMPOSIUM. MEFANE SAID THAT PAN-AFRICAN FESTIVAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AND ORGANIZED BY OAU. NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON MEFANE'S REMARKS REFERRED TO LAGOS FESTIVAL AS "EXTENSION" OF FIRST BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH TOOK PLACE IN DAKAR.

3. MEFANE RECALLED THAT OBJECTIVE OF ACCRA UNESCO CONFERENCE HAD BEEN HARMONIZATION BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE AFRICA IN CULTURAL FIELD, AND TO COMBAT CULTURAL BALKANIZATION OF AFRICA, BUT TOTAL FAILURE HAD OCCURED.

4. MEFANE ALSO REPORTED HAVING DISCUSSED BILATERAL CULTURAL COOPERATION, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING GABONESE STUDENTS BY SENEGAL.  
AGGREY

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## Message Attributes

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